

*Dropped or postponed 25X1
in rehearsal on Wed.*

NSC BRIEFING

24 August 1960

SOVIET MILITARY REALIGNMENT AND FORCE REDUCTIONS

- I. Last January, Khrushchev outlined program for large reduction in military manpower and alterations in the structure of Soviet armed forces.
 - A. Reduction of 1.2 million men (from 3.6 to 2.4 million) scheduled by the end of 1961.
 - B. The motives were mixed economic, political, and military, including the need for manpower in the economy and the shift to new weapon systems.
 1. Rising importance of missiles indicated by announcement in May of new missile command under Marshal Nedelin.
 - C. We believe this program will be substantially carried out, barring a major domestic or international crisis. (U-2 affair and Summit breakdown apparently have not affected the plan.)
 - D. Largest cuts in manpower will probably occur during 1961.

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III. Evidence on reductions and realignment in the ground forces and fleets is fragmentary, but there are some signs.

A. One tank division in western USSR demobilized with much publicity.

B. Some artillery units withdrawn from East Germany--further withdrawals may be made from Eastern Europe.

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E. Soviet press has numerous articles about demobilized soldiers, sailors, and airmen entering agriculture and industry, particularly in Kazakhstan and Siberia--one roundup account in late June gave destinations of 220,000 men.

1. Demobilization of course presents problems--e.g., arrival of demobilized servicemen led to a strike and disorders near Novosibirsk in late May - early June.

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